

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 of the present application are currently pending. Claims 1-4, 9-14 and 16-37 have been rejected. Claims 5-8 and 15 have been allowed. Claims 5-8 and 15 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter was added by these amendments. Furthermore, applicant asserts that these amendments did not result in a narrowing of the scope of the claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9-14, 16 and 18-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duronio et al., 6,328,229.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duronio et al., 6,328,229, in view of Sawhney et al., 6,121341.

The Office Action indicated that claims 5-8 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. However, there was no rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 in the office action. In a telephonic interview the Examiner clarified that claims 5-8 and 15 were allowable as presently written and that there was no rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the interview and the clarification.

In order to expedite allowance of the present application, the applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 9-14, and 16-37, without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to resubmit these claims, or claims of similar scope, in a continuation application.

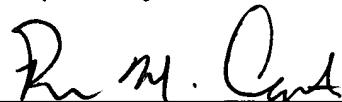
For the foregoing reasons, claims 5-8 and 15 are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1329.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/15/04


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